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527-88

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): O. YOKOMIZO, et al  
Serial No.: 08/470,424  
Filed: June 6, 1995  
For: FUEL ASSEMBLY AND NUCLEAR REACTOR  
Group: 3641  
Examiner: H. Behrend

RECEIVED  
MAY 21 1998  
GROUP 2200

RECEIVED  
MAY 26 1998  
GROUP 3500

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 21, 1998

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated April 23, 1998.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4-7, 23 and 30-37 without prejudice to the right to file a divisional application directed thereto.

Please amend claims 24-26, 28, 44 and 45 as follows:

24. (amended) A method for operating a nuclear reactor having a reactor vessel, a plurality of fuel assemblies loaded in a core arranged inside the reactor vessel, each of said plurality of fuel assemblies including a plurality of fuel rods and at least one water rod therein, and means for